



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Allegro Maestoso from the *Water Music Suite*. . . George Frideric Handel/arr. Don Rager
- When We Are in Deepest Need Johann Sebastian Bach
- Morning Song Josef Rheinberger/arr. Eric Bell
- Sketch in D-flat Major Robert Schumann
- We Gather Together. Netherlands chorale/arr. Peter Tiefenbach

Introit

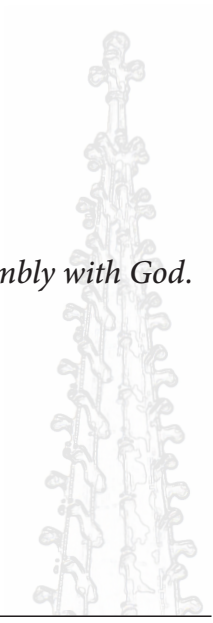
“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” Caribbean melody/arr. John Bell
Hallelujah!

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

*Call to Worship

One: *The prophets have taught us to do justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with God.*
 All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.
 One: *Wisdom continues to teach us to listen, to learn, and to live.*
 All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.
 One: *We join together to praise and worship our God,*
 All: for Christ is at work in our world and in us.



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

***Hymn 643** “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God’s grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our ancestors, we recall our ancestors of the faith,
their faithfulness and their mistakes.

We know our own lives have failed to measure up.

In a world that is so broken right now,
help us, O God, to become menders.

Forgive our shortsightedness and selfishness,
and remind us to help one another.

Call us into your glorious work of kin-dom building.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who laid down his life
so we might all have life now, we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Exchange of Peace**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ,”
and encourage those online to use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.*

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

“How Precious Is Thy Loving-Kindness” (9:30) Daniel Pinkham

How precious is thy loving-kindness, O God! The children of all take refuge in the shadow of thy wings. They are satisfied with the abundance of thy house; and makest them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light, do we see light.

“The Lord Is Good” (11:00) Christopher Tye

The Lord is good! His love will raise a joyful harvest song. Sing “He is good!” and let his praise from every tongue be heard. The Lord is good! He gives us bread; he gives his children more. The Lord is good! By him their souls with grace are fed, a rich and endless store.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Matthew 25:14–30

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:†

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson 2 Kings 5:1–19

One: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pardon for a Necessary Compromise Tom Are Jr.

†Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 786** “Why Stand So Far Away, My God”

Why stand so far away, my God? Why hide in times of need?
The proud, unbridled, chase the poor, and curse you in their greed.

Why do you hide when, full of lies, they murder and betray?
They wait to pounce upon the weak as lions stalk their prey.

The weak are crushed and fall to earth; the wicked strut and preen.
Why in these cruel, chaotic times cannot your face be seen?

In ages past you heard the voice of those the proud oppress.
Remember those who suffer now, who cry in deep distress.

Arise, O God, and lift your hand; bring justice to the poor.
Come, help us stop the flow of blood! Let terror reign no more!

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) adapted from the Belhar Confession

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family.

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another
to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
that we all share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together;
that together we know and bear one another’s burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
that we need one another and upbuild one another.

We believe that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church
to live in a new obedience and to open new possibilities
of life for society and the world. Amen.

New Members (9:30)

(Continued on facing page)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Praise Ye the Lord” (9:30) Aaron David Miller
*Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness. Praise him upon the loud
cymbals; praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise
the Lord. Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments. Praise him
with the psaltery and harp; praise him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise him with stringed
instruments and organ!*

“One Thing More” (11:00). Jane Marshall
*Thou who hast given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart. Not thankful when it
pleaseth me, as if thy blessings had spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise.*

*Offertory Response Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication *(unison)*

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks,
 our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
We wait in hope for the coming of your realm
 and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 719** “Come, Labor On”

Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
“Go work today.”

Come, labor on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on.

Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God’s righteous will.

Come, labor on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o’er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
“Well done, well done!”

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

O Be Joyful in the Lord Giovanni Gabrieli/arr. Charles Schuchat

You are invited!

November 19–25, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

Joining us with children

Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a link to the online form—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (*except on Thanksgiving Day*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for your **personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Our **November “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts), which explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Today's opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **Women at Fourth** gathers at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G for a program on “**Nurturing Responsibility in Children: Strategies and Considerations**” presented by Dr. Margaret (Peg) Griffiths. ✨ The Adult Education class “**Reformed and Always Being Reformed**” meets today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person only*), with **Jeff Doane** leading us in comparing selections from Reformation-era Confessions with portions of A Brief Statement of Faith. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5F. **Junior High** (*grades 6–7*) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. (*Senior High will be returning from their weekend retreat later today.*) ✨ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ Rehearsing on Sundays are **Children's Choir** (*kindergarten–grade 5*) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G. ✨ The **Handbell Choir**, which also rehearses on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, welcomes newcomers to join in ringing. ✨ **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, invites singers to join them in rehearsing at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Our commitment. Our work.

Our 2024 Stewardship pledges demonstrate our commitment that **God is at work through us**. So far 481 Fourth Church households have pledged, in total, \$2,021,865 to Fourth Church toward our 2024 goal of \$3,000,000, and 288 households have pledged, in total, \$655,080 to Chicago Lights toward our 2024 goal of \$750,000. If you have not yet made your pledge for next year (www.bit.ly/fpcpledging), there is still time to do so and to **help us reach our goals! Every gift matters** in making it possible for us to do together the work that God has called us to do.

Christmas flowers

We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers**, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center this Advent and Christmas. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente ([312.252.3571](tel:312.252.3571); gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Giving thanks

We will join with our neighbors for an **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** this Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. (*note the time change*) at Holy Name Cathedral (*State and Superior*), with members of Fourth Church choirs providing the music. ✨ **On Thanksgiving Day** we will not be gathering in person for worship. Instead we will be sharing a **Thanksgiving-themed “Rhythm and Word” video** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Thursday morning, November 23. When you or those with whom you may be gathering are looking for fifteen minutes of spiritual reflection during which to pause to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day, we invite you to view the music-and-word worship experience released that day. (*You can receive the video by email by subscribing at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail*) ✨ The **Fourth Church and Chicago Lights offices will be closed** this Thursday and Friday, November 23 and November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. ✨

Sharing Christmas joy

Women at Fourth is again coordinating our annual **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. This year we are collecting gift cards to Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald’s, along with books. If dropping off gift cards at the church, please do so by Wednesday, December 6, marking them to the attention of Simon Crow and designating the amount on the card(s). (*We are giving \$25 worth of gift cards to each student.*) For a list of books, please contact Simon (scrow@fourthchurch.org). Monetary contributions for book purchases can also be made to Fourth Church, noting “Christmas Wishes” in the designation or memo line. ✨ Our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive is also underway!** This year our goal is to fill 475 bags, which includes an addition of 75 gift bags for children. A list of items needed by Monday, December 4 can be found at <https://qrco.de/mealsministry>. We are also in need of 475 McDonald’s gift cards of \$10 each; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry.

Holiday concerts

Our holiday concert season kicks off on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. when the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** presents an **all-Bach program** in the Sanctuary (*tickets are required; see www.cso.org*). ✨ Then on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6, an annual favorite, a **Chanticleer Christmas**, takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*tickets are required; again, see www.cso.org*). ✨ At the end of that week, on Saturday, December 8, **Chicago a cappella** will perform their **Holidays a cappella** concert at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*for those tickets, see chicagoacappella.org*). For even **more holiday concerts** at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts! ✨ There you will also find the listings of our free **Friday Noonday Concerts**—this week featuring organist Alessandro Bianchi—which take place weekly at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream.

Volunteers needed

We have a waitlist of **Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors** on weekday evenings, for ninety minutes, in person or online. For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/tutoring.

Get connected

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for this group or Bible study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, will gather for their annual **Christmas Carol Sing-Along** led by John Sherer on Friday, December 1. To sign up, register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1223 ✨ An in-person workshop on "**You and Your Spiritual Gifts**" will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5G. To register for this in-person-only opportunity to discover your spiritual gifts and find ways to **connect with the programs and ministries in the church specifically related to your God-given gifts**, sign up at www.bit.ly/spiritualgifts122 ✨ A **Holiday Deep Listening Dinner** will be held Saturday evening, December 2 in Anderson Hall. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/holidaylistening23 ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our website: fourthchurch.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ **For those facing life's challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. To learn more or add your name to the list for new groups being formed, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ **For snapshots of Fourth Church life as well as news and updates**, subscribe to our **weekly newsletter** at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Holly O'Mara (9:30), Gavin Daniels (11:00), Nanette Sawyer,
Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director
Drum Circle; John Doty, Music Director
Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE TEXT OF THIS MORNING'S OPENING HYMN, "Now Thank We All Our God," was written by Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart (1586–1649) as the Thirty Years' War was raging in Germany. In 1636 the town of Eilenberg, where Rinkart lived, was flooded with refugees. When the Swedish army encompassed the city gates, the town experienced plague and famine. Eventually the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, and Rinkart alone went to successfully negotiate an end to the hostilities. In gratitude for the end of this suffering he composed these verses for the survivors and used the first two verses as a table prayer.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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